

Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AF

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EAID, PFOR, MASS, ACOM, CM, US

SUBJECT: CAMEROON AID REQUEST AND WATTS

REFS: A) YAOUNDE 2417, B) YAOUNDE 2426, C) YAOUNDE 2606,

D) YAOUNDE 2712, E) STATE AIRGRAM A 3590, 7/20/76,

F) YAOUNDE 2652, G) YAOUNDE 2799

1. IN YOUR PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO CAMEROONIAN AID REQUEST (REFTELS A AND B), YOU MAY INDICATE THAT DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION WITH VIEW TO BEING AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE, WITHIN LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY CONGRESS AND BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. YOU SHOULD, HOWEVER, CAUTION GURC THAT FINAL DECISION -- REQUIRING EXTENSIVE COORDINATION WITHIN EXECUTIVE BRANCH AS WELL AS ULTIMATE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL -- WILL INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE TIME LAG, PERHAPS SEVERAL MONTHS. FURTHERMORE, OUTCOME IS BY
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NO MEANS CERTAIN PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ELECTION YEAR.

2. MILITARY ASSISTANCE -- BEFORE GIVING FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO GURC REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DEPARTMENT WILL NEED MORE PARTICULARS: A) TYPE OF PROGRAM ENVISAGED BY GURC (E.G., TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, ETC.); B) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS, IN PRIORITY ORDER, GOING INTO FAIRLY PRECISE DETAIL AS TO TYPE OF EQUIPMENT BEING SOUGHT, ETC.; AND C) ANTICIPATED FINANCING (CASH AND CREDIT MIX).

ABOVE INFORMATION SHOULD BE ELICITED AS DISCREETLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO AVOID AROUSING UNDUE GURC EXPECTATIONS. IT SHOULD ALSO BE MADE CLEAR TO GURC THAT ASSISTANCE, IF FORTHCOMING, IS LIKELY TO BE MODEST IN SCOPE. REF (E), PERTAINING TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION, HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EMBASSY AND SHOULD ASSIST YOU IN KEEPING PROGRAM PROPOSAL IN PERSPECTIVE.

3. FYI - OUR INTENTION IS TO PRESENT FY 1978 MILITARY AID PROPOSAL FOR CAMEROON TO MEETING OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE (SAPRC) TO BE HELD MID-SEPTEMBER. THIS IS FIRST STEP IN CLEARANCE AND APPROVAL PROCESS. IN ORDER TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME TO ASSEMBLE NECESSARY MATERIAL, WE WILL NEED INFO IN PARA 2 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 25. END FYI.

4. REGARDING INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AHIDJO IS ALREADY AWARE OF YOUR OWN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE USG CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSCAM III. YOU MAY REASSURE GURC THAT USG IS SENSITIVE TO AHIDJO'S PERSONAL INTEREST AND WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE THIS MATTER ITS FULL CONSIDERATION. IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO MAKE IT KNOWN, IN THIS REGARD, THAT WE ARE AWAITING WITH INTEREST THE RESULTS OF THE WORLD BANK TRANSPORT CORRIDOR STUDY WHICH IS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER 1976.

5. FYI - DEPARTMENT'S (NOT WHOLLY FORTUITOUS) INTEREST IN CAMEROON AS POTENTIAL BASE FOR WATTS RELAY STATION WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN THE EQUATION. GURC RESPONSIVENESS TO WATTS REQUEST SHOULD CONSTITUTE GOOD SUPPORTING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF USG RESPONSIVENESS
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ON ASSISTANCE. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT ABOVE PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO AID REQUEST IS NOT AS DEFINITIVE AS GURC WOULD LIKE (REF F) BUT FIRM PROMISES ARE NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME. POST IS REQUESTED TO PROCEED WITH PRESENTATION OF WATTS PROPOSAL ACCORDING TO SCENARIO SUGGESTED IN REF (D). FURTHER TECHNICAL MATERIALS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO POST TO AID IN PRESENTATION. HABIB

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